

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 were rejected as unpatentable over WALLENIUS et al. 6,068,734 in view of ESPY 5,316,623 and VINSON et al. 5,958,185 and VINSON et al. 5,611,890. The claims have been amended and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The amended claims provide, among other features, that the fibres, polymers, and softener are provided so that the web has at least one of a wet tensile strength in cross direction of more than 6.5 N/50 mm and a relative wet-to-dry strength in cross direction of more than 36.1. Support for this amendment is found in the table on page 37. As will be appreciated, these values are derived from the examples in which the strength of the present invention is greater than the strength of the comparative example. New dependent claims further provide that the web has both properties and that the web has the more restrictive values for the present invention also found in the table on page 37.

These values are not taught by the references and would not be obvious to one of skill in the art. The artisan would not combine these components so as to achieve these results. For example, note that by multiplying the wet tensile strength in cross direction of more than 6.5 N/50 mm by 20, one arrives at a value of 130 N/mm which is far above the values recited in the right-hand column of Table 2 of WALLENIUS et al. The prior art

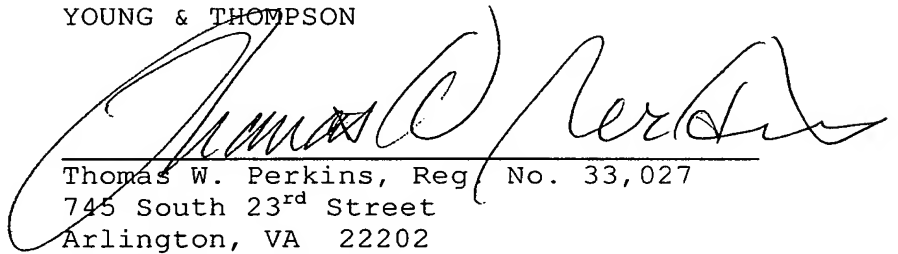
did not conceive that these components could be combined to produce such results.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Thomas W. Perkins', is written over the printed name and address.

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